

HOUSE BILL 274

By Keisling

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 135 in Clay County in honor of the late Jerry Lee Denton.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who, during their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Jerry Lee Denton, one of Clay County's finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Denton exhibited a sincere love for his community, not only through his distinguished record of public service, but also through his participation in numerous civic activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Denton was also active in many local government functions and was a mentor for various local government officials; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Denton served his country honorably in the military, and set an example as a person, Christian, and family man that all would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Denton will always be remembered as a man of integrity who continually strived for the betterment of his community, county, and country; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Commission has petitioned this General Assembly to name a certain segment of State Route 135 to honor Mr. Denton's memory and to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment to the greater good; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the one-mile segment of State Route 135 (McCormick Ridge Road) in Clay County beginning at mile marker 6 and

ending at mile marker 7 is hereby designated the "Jerry Lee Denton Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an excellent public servant and even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 135 described in Section 1 as the "Jerry Lee Denton Memorial Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. The appellation "Jerry Lee Denton Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.